

## **3. COMMUNITY PROFILE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The community profile is a collection of statistical information pertaining to the general characteristics of population, housing, income and employment of the town.

In the context of the Master Plan, a statistical profile of the community is useful in two respects. First, it places or defines the community in relation to other communities in the region. This allows for comparisons and evaluations of the various social, economic and demographic topics covered. Second, it can be used to identify and examine important trends that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the growth and development of Newton in years to come.

Many of the following tables contain information for Newton and eight other communities in the surrounding area, as well as totals for the region and Rockingham County. These tables provide a regional context for data presented. The remaining tables show data for Newton covering a period of years from which trends can be identified. Much of the information presented in the tables is derived from the US. Census of Population and Housing. Other sources include the New Hampshire Office of State Planning and the Rockingham Planning Commission.

### **OVERVIEW**

The following community profile of Newton illustrates several important trends and comparisons. This information sheds light on the direction of future growth and development of the community and should be considered when formulating policy decisions. Some general findings may be summarized as follows:

1. The Town has grown at a particularly rapid rate since 1970. From the late 1980's until the mid 1990's, the growth rate tapered off, however the town has yet to recover from this growth. Urbanization has not yet accompanied this growth, and the Town retains the rural characteristics of many small surrounding towns. Taxes have increased in order to meet the burden this growth has placed upon municipal services and infrastructure. Some long-time residents of Newton are being forced to reevaluate their finances in light of this increase, and some citizens are in threat of losing their homes and farms because they are unable to meet the new tax increases.
2. Population growth for the remainder of the 1994-2004 decade is projected to level off on a percentage basis.
3. Newton has not yet experienced a significant increase in the number of elderly persons in proportion to the total population. Such an increase is considered inevitable and will be a long-term demographic trend.
4. Newton has an equitable mix of housing, income levels, and values. As to housing, Newton has had difficulty in truly numbering the amount of rental units as conversions are taking place without notice to town offices.

## POPULATION AND GROWTH

**Population History:** The Town of Newton has exhibited a growth pattern common to many small, rural southern Rockingham County communities. The 1994 population of Newton is estimated to be 3,558 persons. This is equivalent to 359.4 persons per square mile, or 1.78 acres per person. While by urban standards this does not appear to be a high population density, one gains an appreciation for the dramatic impact of this growth when considering Newton's population history (refer to Table 1).

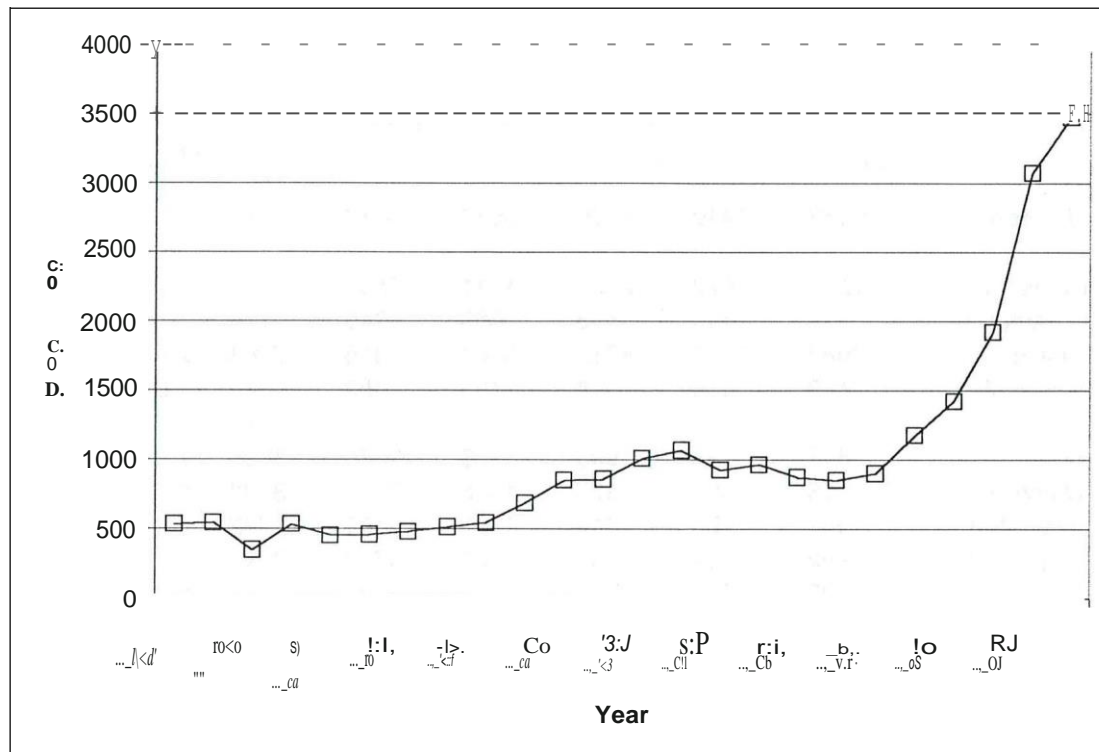
**Table 1: Population History, Newton, NH 1767-1990**

Area of Town: 9.9 square miles  
6,336 acres

Year	Population	People Per Square Mile	Acres Per Person
1767	529	53.4	11.97
1775	540	54.5	11.73
1786	343	34.6	18.47
1790	530	53.5	11.95
1800	450	45.5	14.08
1810	454	45.9	13.95
1820	477	48.2	13.28
1830	510	51.5	12.42
1840	541	54.6	11.71
1850	685	69.2	9.25
1860	850	85.9	7.45
1870	856	86.5	7.4
1880	1006	101.6	6.29
1890	1064	107.5	5.95
1900	924	93.3	6.85
1910	962	97.2	6.58
1920	872	88.1	7.26
1930	848	85.7	7.47
1940	900	118.5	7.04
1950	1173	118.5	5.4
1960	1419	143.3	4.46
1970	1920	193.9	3.3
1980	3068	309.9	2.06
1990	3473	350.8	1.82

Sources: 1767-1940: Unpublished report, Office of State Planning  
2940-1990: U.S. Bureau of Census

The earliest recorded population was 529 persons in 1767, or 12 acres per person. The town has grown seven-fold since that time. More remarkable, however, is the growth occurring since 1970. In that 24-year period, the town has increased by 85%, with an average annual growth rate of 2.6%. The figure below reflects the dramatic growth during this time period.



**Figure 1: Newton Growth History 1800-1990**

Until the 1950's, the Town's growth rate was highly correlated with both that of the Rockingham Planning Commission region and the County. From 1970 until 1980, the overall population growth rate of the County and RPC region declined while Newton's growth rate continued to increase. However, the average annual growth rate since 1980 (at 0.93% per year) represents a decrease from the average annual growth rate from 1970 to the 1980 (refer to Table 2). This comparison indicates a trend of increasing growth at a progressively slower rate. This trend is common in at least half of the surrounding towns.

It is important to note that growth rates are relative. Since Newton has a smaller total population than many towns, a high growth rate may represent fewer people than a larger town with a low growth rate. For example, Atkinson (with one of the slowest growth rates between 1980 and 1990) added 791 persons, while Danville (one of the faster growing communities during the same time period) added only 1216 persons (refer to Table 2).

Table 2: Regional Growth History, 1950-1996

Town	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996	AVERAGE ANNUAL %CHANGE		
							1970- 1996	1980- 1996	1990- 1996
Newton	1173	1419	1920	3068	3473	3688	3.5%	1.3%	1.0%
Kingston	1283	1672	2882	4111	5591	5777	3.9%	2.5%	0.6%
So. Hampton	314	443	558	660	740	777	1.5%	1.1%	-0.8%
Plaistow	2082	2915	4712	5609	7316	7664	2.4%	2.3%	0.8%
East Kingston	449	574	838	1135	1352	1612	3.6%	2.6%	3.2%
Fremont	698	783	993	1333	2576	3025	7.9%	7.9%	2.9%
Danville	508	605	924	1318	2534	3188	9.4%	8.9%	4.3%
Kensington	542	708	1044	1322	1631	1722	2.5%	1.9%	0.9%
Hampstead	902	1261	2401	3785	6732	7391	8.0%	6.0%	1.6%
Atkinson	492	1017	2291	4397	5188	5794	5.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Sanborn Regional Dist. Towns	2456	3091	4802	7179	9064	9465	3.7%	2.0%	0.7%
10 Town Study Area	8443	11397	18563	26738	37133	40638	4.6%	3.3%	1.6%
Rockingham Co.	70059	99029	138951	190345	245845	247812	3.0%	1.9%	0.1%
New Hampshire			737681	920475	1109117	1162000	2.2%	1.6%	0.8%

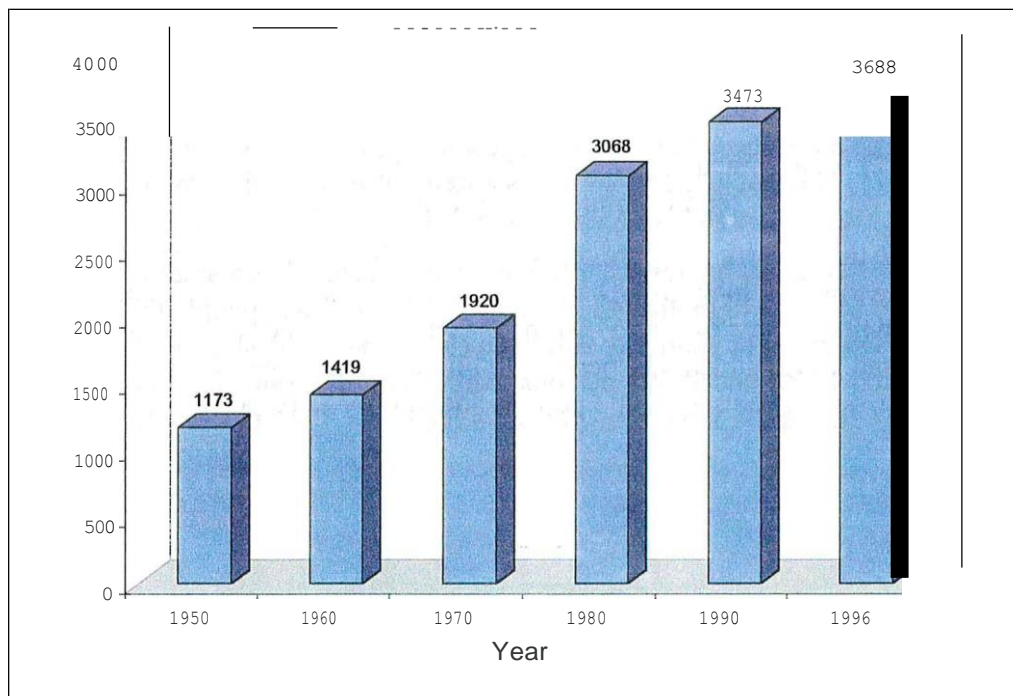


Figure 2: Growth History of Newton, 1950-1996

**Projections:** Projections provided by the New Hampshire Office of State Planning indicate a further slowing of growth in the region overall and in Newton as well (see Table 3). The population in Newton is forecast to increase by only 0.65% annually between 1990 and 2000, while the region is expected to grow by 0.55% annually.

**Table 3: Population Projections to the Year 2020**

<b>Town (Census)</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Average Annual% Change</b>			
						<b>1990- 2000</b>	<b>2000- 2010</b>	<b>2010- 2020</b>	<b>1990- 2020</b>
Newton	3068	3473	4052	4729	5610	1.67%	1.67%	1.86%	2.05%
<u>Kingston</u>	4111	5591	6453	7811	9745	1.54%	2.10%	2.48%	2.48%
So. Hampton	660	740	851	988	1160	1.50%	1.61%	1.74%	1.89%
Plaistow	5609	7316	8426	9857	11720	1.52%	1.70%	1.89%	2.01%
East Kingston	1135	1352	1765	2011	2331	3.05%	1.39%	1.59%	2.41%
Fremont	1333	2576	3293	3797	4453	2.78%	1.53%	1.73%	2.43%
Danville	1318	2534	3538	4341	5580	3.96%	2.27%	2.85%	4.01%
<u>Kensington</u>	1322	1631	1911	2266	2748	1.72%	1.86%	2.13%	2.28%
Hampstead	3785	6732	8301	10339	13442	2.33%	2.46%	3.00%	3.32%
Atkinson	4397	5188	6341	7354	8673	2.22%	1.60%	1.79%	2.24%
Sanborn	7179	9064	10505	12540	15355	1.59%	1.94%	2.24%	2.31%
Regional District Towns									
10 Town Study Area	26738	37133	44931	53493	65462	2.10%	1.91%	2.24%	2.54%
Rockingham	190345	245845	285141	335204	400846	1.60%	1.76%	1.96%	2.10%
<u>County</u>									
New Hampshire	920475	1109117	1228794	1358750	1527873	1.08%	1.06%	1.24%	1.26%

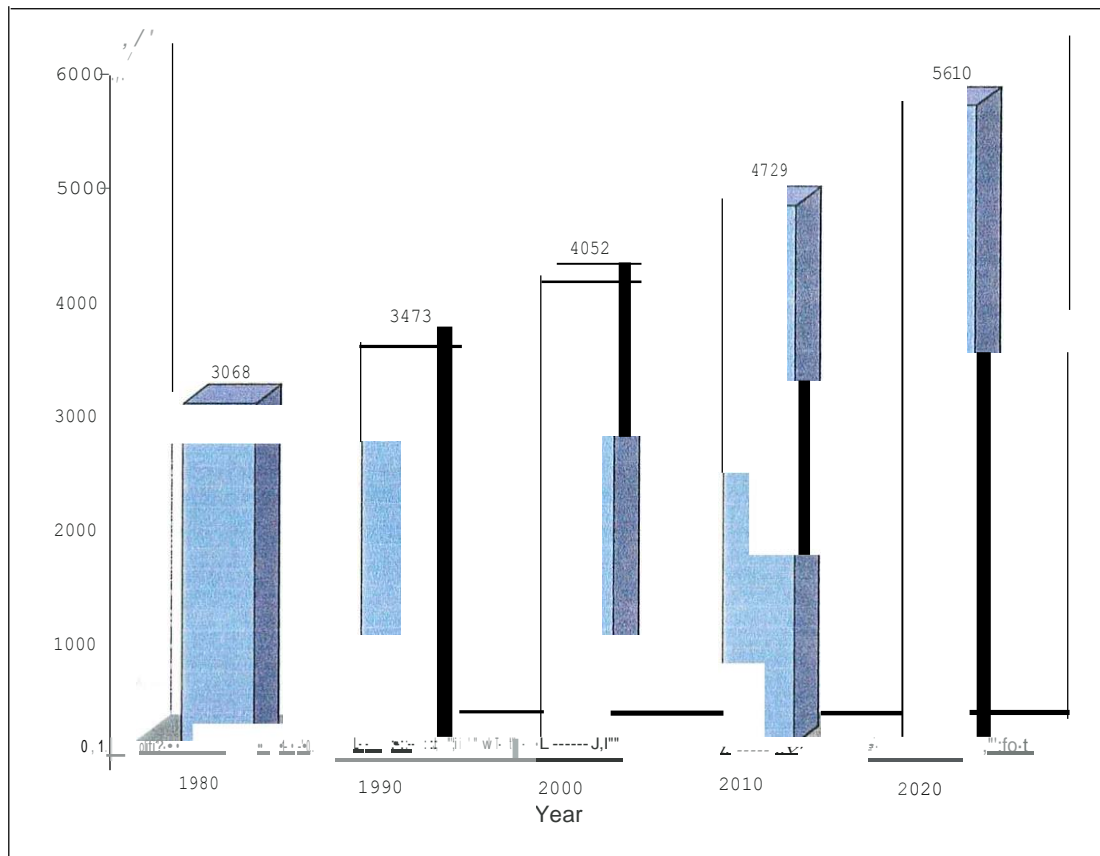


Figure 3: Newton Population Projections to the Year 2020

Age Distribution: According to U.S. Census results, the following distribution of age groups existed in Newton:

Table 4: Population Age Distribution

Age Group	1970 (number)	1970 (percent)	1980 (number)	1980 (percent)	1990 (number)	1990 (percent)
0-4	218	11.40	237	7.70	308	8.90
5-9	220	11.50	266	8.70	274	7.90
10-14	210	10.90	277	9.00	251	7.20
15-19	134	7.00	278	9.10	208	5.90
20-24	151	7.90	220	7.20	187	5.10
25-34	279	14.50	602	19.60	727	20.90
35-44	204	10.60	400	13.30	660	19.00
45-54	203	10.60	287	9.40	353	10.16
55-64	131	6.80	237	7.70	205	5.90
65-74	101	5.30	152	5.00	188	5.40
75+	65	3.40	104	3.40	119	3.40
TOTALS	1920	100%	3068	100%	3473	100%

Source: U.S. Census of Population

## HOUSING

Housing trends are reflected in the following tables.

**Table 5: Housing Statistics**

	<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>1251</b>
Owner Occupied	472	790	973
Renter Occupied	93	217	225
Vacant	31	40	53
Single Family	486	836	1013
Multi Family	63	169	175
Manufactured Housing	42	42	63
<b>Median Persons Per Unit</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3</b>
Median Home Value	\$15,774	\$49,600	\$138,200
Median Rent	\$135.00	\$230.00	\$619.00

**Table 6: Age of Housing Stock**

<b>Age Of Housing Stock:</b>				
	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Renter</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Total</i>
1989-March, 1990	7	13	0	20
1985-1988	82	21	0	103
1980-1984	90	0	5	95
1970-1979	291	70	23	384
1960-1969	155	19	0	174
1950-1959	90	0	7	97
1940-1949	26	11	4	41
1939 or earlier	232	91	14	337

**Table 7: Method of Sewage Disposal**

<b>Sewage Disposal:</b>		
	<b>1986 MIP</b>	<b>1998 MIP</b>
Public/Common Sewer	155	119
Septic Tank/Cesspool	913	1105
Other Means	5	27

Table 8: Source of Water

<i>Source Of Water:</i>		
	<i>1986 MIP</i>	<i>1998 MIP</i>
Public System/Private Co.	157	142
Drilled Well	<b>440</b>	716
Dug Well	470	383
Other Source	6	10

Table 9: Home Heating Method

<i>House Heating Fuel:</i>	
Utility Gas	9
Bottled Gas Or Lp Gas	53
Electricity	139
Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Etc.	<b>846</b>
Coal Or Coke	15
Wood	130
Solar Energy	0
Other Fuel	6
No Fuel Used	0

Table 10: Year of Occupancy

	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Renter</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Tenure By Year:</i>			
1989-March, 1990	66	72	138
1985-1988	311	96	407
1980-1984	142	26	168
1970-1979	332	14	346
1960-1969	53	9	62
1959 or earlier	69	8	77

Source: U.S. Census of Population



## INCOME

Newton's income with respect to the area is one of the lowest, as can be seen from Table 11.

**Table 11: Regional Family and Household Incomes**

<i><b>Town</b></i>	<i><b>Median Income / Family 1979</b></i>	<i><b>Median Income / Household 1979</b></i>	<i><b>Median Income / Family 1989</b></i>	<i><b>Median Income / Household 1989</b></i>
Newton	\$21,442	\$20,054	\$45,465	\$41,419
Kingston	22,672	20,791	51,332	46,867
So. Hampton	21,215	19,886	50,331	47,813
Plaistow	23,233	21,504	45,711	43,058
East Kingston	21,964	20,230	46,914	43,654
Fremont			43,199	40,938
Danville			46,875	42,824
Kensington	21,215	20,263	47,083	44,773
Hamstead	23,750	21,305	52,275	43,458
Atkinson	26,494	24,882	62,743	58,239

Source: "Selected Economic Characteristics of New Hampshire Municipalities," Office of State Planning, 1983

Note: The U.S. Census defines Family as "consisting of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption . . ." and household as "including all the persons who occupy a housing unit . . ."